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GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

POST OFFICE BOX 621
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**Testimony of
CARTY S. CHANG
Interim Chairperson**

**Before the House Committee on
ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

**Thursday, March 19, 2015
8:30 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 325**

**In consideration of
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 126/HOUSE RESOLUTION 78
REQUESTING THE DIRECTOR OF HEALTH TO EXTEND THE TASK FORCE STUDY
OF THE EFFECTS OF THE JANUARY 2014 FUEL TANK LEAK AT THE RED HILL
UNDERGROUND FUEL STORAGE FACILITY**

House Concurrent Resolution 126/House Resolution 78 requests the Director of Health to extend the task force study of the effects of the January 2014 fuel tank leak at the Red Hill underground fuel storage facility and to continue to monitor the United States Navy's plans for remediation of the Red Hill facility fuel tanks. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) offers the following comments.**

Our underground aquifers are the major source of drinking water for the people of Hawaii. We have a public trust obligation to protect and preserve the quality and sustainability of this valuable resource for current and future generations.

Underground storage tanks are a potential major threat to the public trust water resources of the State. It is critical that all owners and operators of underground storage tanks regularly monitor for leaks using approved methods, maintain adequate records, and meet corrosion protection, spill, and overfill requirements as required by the Department of Health (DOH). These systems are prone to leak over time, as evidenced by the recent case regarding the Red Hill fuel storage tanks.

The Department notes that a representative from the Department's Commission on Water Resource Management participated on the Red Hill Task Force that was led by DOH. Should these resolutions be adopted, the Department is amiable to remaining on the Task Force.

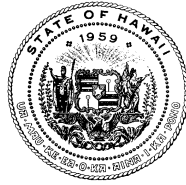
CARTY S. CHANG
INTERIM CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

DANIEL S. QUINN
INTERIM FIRST DEPUTY

W. ROY HARDY
ACTING DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

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Lastly, the Department also notes Senate Bill 1168, Regular Session of 2015, which proposes to direct DOH to adopt rules requiring all field-constructed storage tanks and tank systems currently exempt under Chapter 11-281, Hawaii Administrative Rules, to meet all the requirements that must be met by all other owners and operators of underground storage tanks and tank systems. Accordingly, the Department defers to DOH regarding implementation of the expanded task force work outlined in these resolutions, the appropriate mechanisms to bring all fuel storage tanks and systems into a uniform compliance standard, and the technical details and implementation of measures outlined in these resolutions.



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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Testimony in SUPPORT of HCR 126
REQUESTING THE DIRECTOR OF HEALTH TO EXTEND THE TASK FORCE
STUDYING THE EFFECTS OF THE JANUARY 2014 FUEL TANK LEAK AT THE
RED HILL UNDERGROUND FUEL STORAGE FACILITY

REPRESENTATIVE CHRIS LEE, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Hearing Date: **March 19, 2015**
Time: **8:30 a.m.**

Room Number: 325

1 **Fiscal Implications:** None

2 **Department Testimony:** The Department supports HCR 126 which proposes to extend the task
3 force studying the effects of the January 2014 Red Hill fuel tank leak.

4 The Department of Health is committed to taking measures required to prevent the future
5 releases from all underground storage tanks. In an effort to address the challenges presented at
6 Red Hill, the U.S. Navy, Defense Logistics Agency, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
7 and the Department are committed to completing the ongoing negotiations that are designed to
8 produce an Administrative Order on Consent (AOC). The AOC is intended to establish a
9 process to make well-researched, well-planned and cost-effective improvements to protect the
10 groundwater resource beneath the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility. At this time, we believe
11 that this collaborative, enforceable approach provides a preferred way to address the
12 environmental concerns posed by this facility.

13 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this resolution.

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BOARD OF WATER SUPPLY

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
630 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET
HONOLULU, HI 96843



March 19, 2015

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Manager and Chief Engineer

ELLEN E. KITAMURA, P.E.
Deputy Manager and Chief Engineer

The Honorable Chris Lee, Chair
and Members
Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection
House of Representatives
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 325
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair and Members:

Subject: House Concurrent Resolution 126 and House Resolution 78:
Requesting the Director of Health to Extend the Task Force
Studying the Effects of the January 2014 Fuel Tank Leak at the
Red Hill Underground Fuel Storage Facility

We support House Concurrent Resolution 126 and House Resolution 78. These resolutions extend the Task Force, established under Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 73, HD 1, study of the January 2014 leak, monitor developments since then and gather new information to supplement its 2014 report.

Studies and groundwater monitor well test results already show fuel releases at Red Hill have contaminated the groundwater and soil underneath the facility with petroleum hydrocarbons. Other studies and examinations find the steel tanks wearing from corrosion, concerns with the facility's mounting age and discuss the risks of a large catastrophic fuel release. These findings can mean losing a major source of drinking water if the study and mitigation necessary to protect the entire aquifer is not identified. Continuing discussion and analysis of the many complex and technical issues at Red Hill and the impacts to our environment and underground sources of drinking water is absolutely essential to properly assess and find the protection measures that need to be implemented to ensure our groundwater aquifer is protected, preserved and remains sustainable for Oahu's residents now and into the future.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Very truly yours,

ERNEST Y.W. LAU, P.E.
Manager and Chief Engineer

EEPttestimony

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, March 19, 2015 7:44 AM
To: EEPtestimony
Cc: carl.campagna@kamakagreen.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HCR126 on Mar 19, 2015 08:30AM*

LATE

HCR126

Submitted on: 3/19/2015

Testimony for EEP on Mar 19, 2015 08:30AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Carl Campagna	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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